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In the 1980's

CIA chief says U.S. facing a precarious situation

Commercial News Staff

America is not facing the best of all possible worlds as the nation enters the 1980s, the Central Intelligence Agency chief says.

Admiral Stansfield Turner predicted here that the 1980s would be more precarious than either the 1960s or 1970s.

And what that means to business and the guy on the street is that the quality of living — and life itself — may be in jeopardy.

Turner told a luncheon at the San Francisco Press Club this week that one reason for this was the perception by the Soviet Union of closer equality with the

United States in world affairs.

"The Soviet leaders don't feel inferior to the United States. Whether this is true or not, we can't count on bullying or intimidating the Soviets. This is a new challenge to us," he said.

Secondly, Turner said, the United States cannot expect the same rate of high economic growth in the developed countries of the world as in the past.

"We will be lucky if we can sustain a rate of growth in energy of 1 to 2 percent instead of the 6 percent we are used to. And 1 or 2 percent may be an optimistic evaluation."

Thirdly, Turner said, the

mechanism for handling military and economic problems will work differently in the 1980s.

"The countries want a larger voice in decisions," he said. "We are going to have to change our patterns of diplomacy, so we must have better information and better secret intelligence," he said.

"Can we do this and still respect the provisions of the U.S. constitution? I believe we can," he said.

Turner also outlined four areas of legislation that he felt were needed to better protect the legitimate secrets of the United States.